

7 Things to Check Before Joining a PGDM College in Delhi NCR



Most students spend more time researching which phone to buy than which PGDM college to join. That is a problem, because a wrong phone costs you money. A wrong college costs you two years and a degree that does not pay off.

Delhi NCR has over 60 private PGDM colleges. They all use the same language: "industry-oriented curriculum," "100% placement assistance," "experienced faculty." The brochure rarely tells you what actually matters.

Here are 7 things worth checking before paying a single rupee.

1. Is the College Actually AICTE Approved — and Is That Approval Current?

This is the one check most students skip entirely.

AICTE approval is not a one-time certificate. It is renewed every year through a document called the Extension of Approval (EOA) report. A college that was approved in 2022 may not have a valid approval for the 2026 batch. Without a current EOA, your degree may not be accepted for PSU job applications, government entrance forms, or education loans from nationalised banks.

How to verify: Go to aicate-india.org, search for the college by name, and check the EOA status for the current academic year. Then ask the college to share their EOA report directly. Any genuine AICTE-approved college will do this without hesitation.

Greater Noida Institute of Management (GNIM), for example, publishes its AICTE EOA Report publicly on gnim.co.in. That transparency is exactly what to look for.



2. What is the Total Fee for Two Years — Not Just Year One?

Fee structures at private colleges can be misleading. Many colleges advertise a first-year figure. The second-year fee, exam fees, library charges, and other add-ons often push the total significantly higher.

Always ask for the consolidated fee: total amount, both years, all charges included.

The best colleges are upfront about this. GNIM, for instance, lists its complete PGDM fee structure publicly:

Installment	Amount (INR)
Registration	50,000
Installment 1	1,75,000
Installment 2	1,25,000
Installment 3	1,25,000
Installment 4	1,00,000
Total	5,75,000

No hidden semester fees. No surprise charges. That is the benchmark to hold every college against.

Also check: does the college offer merit-based scholarships? GNIM offers scholarships based on CAT percentile, MAT score, and graduation marks, which can reduce the effective fee meaningfully.

3. What is the Actual Placement Record - Not the Best-Case Number?

Every college brochure shows the highest package from the last batch. That number tells you almost nothing.

The questions that actually matter are:

- What percentage of students received a placement offer?
- What is the average salary, not the maximum?
- Which companies recruited, and in which roles?
- Were these full-time roles or internships counted as placements?

Ask for a placement report, not a highlights slide. Look for named companies and named roles. A college that places students at Dabur, Reliance, HDFC Bank, Varun Beverages, DS Group, LT Foods, and Spark Minda in verified full-time and internship roles is showing you something real. Generic claims without company names are a red flag.

GNIM publishes student-wise placement records with company names and role types. That level of transparency is rare and worth paying attention to.

4. Does the Curriculum Get Updated, or Is It the Same as Five Years Ago?



A PGDM is supposed to be more industry-responsive than an MBA. The structural advantage of a PGDM is that it does not need to wait for a university to revise the syllabus. The college can update the curriculum every year.

In practice, many colleges do not use this advantage. They teach the same subjects in the same order with the same textbooks from a decade ago.

In 2026, a PGDM curriculum should include at minimum: data analytics tools, digital marketing, AI literacy, and live project work with actual companies. Check the trimester-wise syllabus, not the brochure headline.

Useful signals of a genuinely updated curriculum:

- Named certifications built into the program (AI certification, digital marketing certification, advanced Excel)
- Live projects with real companies in each trimester, not just a final-year project
- Practitioners sessions where industry professionals teach domain-specific modules
- Fintech, analytics, or emerging sector bootcamps as structured modules

5. What Specialisations are Available and Can You Choose More Than One?

Most colleges offer the standard five: Marketing, Finance, HR, Operations, and Business Analytics. What varies significantly is how deep each specialisation goes, and whether the college locks you into one.

In 2026, the most in-demand roles sit at the intersection of two functions. A performance marketing manager needs both marketing and analytics skills. A fintech analyst needs both finance and data skills. A student locked into a single specialisation with no cross-functional exposure graduates with a narrower profile than the market actually wants.

Look for colleges that offer a dual major structure, where students can pursue two specialisations with equal depth across elective papers.

GNIM's PGDM program offers a dual major model: students select any two specialisations from Marketing, Finance, HR, Business Analytics, and Operations/SCM, with 12 specialisation papers covering 6 electives from their chosen combination. That kind of flexibility is still uncommon in Delhi NCR at this fee level.

6. Who Actually Teaches Here - and Do They Have Industry Experience?

Faculty quality is the hardest thing to assess from a brochure, but it is one of the highest-impact variables in your two years.

Two things to check:

Academic credentials: Are the faculty members post-graduates in management from recognised institutions? Look for degrees from IIMs, XLRI, FMS, or equivalent programs. This is the academic floor.

Industry experience: Does the faculty have real corporate work experience, or have they been in academia since their PhD? A marketing professor who has never run a campaign, or a finance professor who has never worked in a treasury function, teaches theory without judgment. That gap shows in how case studies are discussed and how practical the advice is.

Additionally, check whether the college runs a structured practitioners programme — where active corporate professionals teach domain-specific modules every trimester. This is different from a one-off guest lecture. It means the curriculum stays current because the people teaching parts of it are working in the industry right now.

7. What Happens After You Pay the Registration Fee?



This is the question almost no one asks until it is too late.

What is the college's refund policy if you need to withdraw? What is the timeline for fee payment installments? Is education loan assistance available, and from which banks? What is the process if you face financial difficulty mid-program?

These are not hypothetical concerns. Life changes. Circumstances shift. A college that offers structured education loan tie-ups with government and nationalised banks, a transparent installment schedule, and a clear refund policy is demonstrating that it respects students as people, not just fee receipts.

Ask these questions before signing anything. A college that deflects or gives vague answers to financial process questions is telling you something important about how it will treat you once you are enrolled.

A Quick Checklist Before You Decide

Check	What to Verify	Green Flag
AICTE Approval	Current EOA report for 2026	Publicly published, shareable on request
Fee Structure	Total two-year consolidated cost	Single transparent number, no hidden charges
Placement Record	Average salary, named companies, roles	Student-wise data, named recruiters
Curriculum	Trimester-wise syllabus, certifications	AI tools, live projects, practitioner sessions
Specialisations	Depth and flexibility of tracks	Dual major option available
Faculty	Credentials and industry experience	Mix of academics and practitioners
Post-Admission Process	Loans, installments, refund policy	Clear written policy, bank tie-ups

Joining a PGDM program is a two-year, full-commitment decision. The colleges that perform well on all seven of these checks are not necessarily the ones with the biggest marketing budgets or the most visible names. They are the ones that are transparent about what they offer, specific about their outcomes, and structured in how they support students from day one.

Greater Noida Institute of Management (GNIM) checks all seven. AICTE approved with a published EOA report, a transparent ₹5.75 Lakh total fee structure, named placement records with companies like Dabur, HDFC Bank, Reliance, and Varun Beverages, a dual major specialisation model, and education loan support from all government and nationalised banks.

For anyone shortlisting PGDM colleges in Delhi NCR in 2026, the full program details are at gnim.co.in.